Victoria College Careers Programme

Aims and Vison:

Here at Victoria College we feel everybody has the right to reach their full potential and lead their life as independently as possible. Our curriculum lends itself to making effective connections across the different lessons delivered across the timetable. We aim to ensure meaningful opportunities across the careers and vocational education for our learners, which reflects their needs and is delivered in a way that is appropriate to their needs and circumstances. Our vision is to support and prepare our learners for increased opportunities and experiences in order for them to play as an active role in the world, raising aspirations whilst widening participation and providing a smooth transition post Victoria College. “An individual’s career is their lifelong journey through learning and work. Our education system requires young people to make choices while they are in school…that have implications for their future progression opportunities. Schools and colleges, therefore need to help students with choices and transitions they have within the school or college but also need to equip them with knowledge and skills to deal with decisions”. (Andrews and Hooley 2019, Careers Leadership in Practice, British Journal of Guidance & Counselling)

Careers Education at Victoria College:

In order to support our learners to achieve their aspirations and outcomes agreed within their Education, Health and Care Plans, career education at Victoria College comprises of the following strands:

1. Opportunities within the curriculum to develop transferable life and social skills as well as development of learners’ self- advocacy, confidence, decision making and transition skills preparing them to be active citizens within society.

2. Options and choices as well as work related learning opportunities offering meaningful skills based vocational experience on site.

3. A bespoke and varied programme of social and work awareness activities across the four-year programme for learners.

4. Enrichment and inclusion activities to promote cross curricular links and skills development.

5. Transition encounters and visits to destination providers promoting personal guidance and information, advice and guidance preparing for life post Victoria College.

6. Functional skills lessons, where appropriate, to support learners to identify their skills, interests and aspirations for the future.

7. Work encounters, experience, placements and employment at local businesses and voluntary sector organisations including job coaching to support learners to aim high.

All staff are responsible in providing bespoke careers and guidance to learners and our Employment and Volunteering policy is renewed annually. The board of trustees has a named trustee with the responsibility for Careers .

Parents/Carers will be entitled to:

- Be able to make an appointment with either the Family Support Worker or Careers Lead to discuss their son/daughter’s progress and future destinations.

 - Access to the college’s curriculum on the college website.

- Have access to up to date information on careers and destinations through teachers, transition events and EHCP reviews. The College employs an Independent Careers Advisor who attends transition events and EHCP reviews as required.

 - Be invited to take part in careers, advice and guidance information events in order to explore options available in planning their son/daughter’s futures.

- Have the opportunity to evaluate the usefulness of parental engagement sessions involving careers, including volunteer sector, and how these can be improved.

Learners will be entitled to:

- A curriculum supporting you to develop transferable skills as well as self-advocacy, decision making and transition skills. - Links to careers throughout the curriculum.

 - Opportunities to learn about the world of work.

 - Obtain support in deciding what to do post Victoria College, including accessing the community and employment.

 - Access to up to date information and labour market information, that is relevant and may include information about alternative future steps.

- Personalised information, advice and guidance in order to make an informed decision for your future.

 - Personal guidance that is impartial and focused on the needs of you as the learner. This may be provided by an external agency with relevant training and expertise.

 - Have the opportunity to discuss and feedback your opinions to help influence curriculum for the future.

External Partners and Supporting Agencies

In order to provide quality careers education, Victoria College works with a range of external agencies, businesses and voluntary organisations, including:

* Spectrum,
* Eco Centre at Moor Pool allotments,
* RSPCA
* Stirchley Baths
* Fantastic journeys
* Let’s Enable
* Communicate 2U (C2U)
* Coventry University
* Wilmott Dixon
* Haleon

Please contact the college’s careers team if you require any further information:

**l.chew@victoriacollege.bham.org.uk** **or call 0121 477 0274**